

# AUSTRALIA WILL WREST METAL INDUSTRY FROM GERMAN CONTROL

(By Associated Press.)

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 24.—What was described, before the war began, as German's "domination" of the world's metal trades through Teutonic commercial and industrial supremacy in Australian mining regions, has, after a year of systemized effort virtually been destroyed, according to a long statement issued by Hugh Mahon, acting attorney general.

Negotiations instituted by William H. Hughes when attorney general and since prosecuted by him as federal prime minister in England, have borne fruit in the creation of a co-operative organization of mining companies in Australia to deal with the commercial metals industry. Through this association, according to Mr. Mahon's statement, this giant business is being placed on a footing free from the possibility of foreign control in the future. This organization, the Associated Smelters Proprietary, Ltd., is probably the largest metallurgical establishment of its kind in the world—a

smelting, refining and realization institution for the treatment of silver, lead and gold ores and concentrates.

Mr. Mahon's statement tells also of the formation of an Australian Zinc Producers' association, with which is affiliated every important zinc producing company with head offices in the commonwealth. Through the medium of this association, its members have agreed to sell all their marketable ore for a period of fifty years.

Replying to an intimation appearing in a London financial journal that Australia's metal industry was perhaps being exploited in the labor interest under the cover of banishing German influence, Mr. Mahon has asserted that the men interested in the metal organizations here have "little or no sympathy with the political opinions of the present (labor) government" and that "no party purpose" was considered. "It is quite evident," Mr. Mahon said, "that German influence is not yet extinct in those circles in London which dominate financial literature."

## One Month's Play of Major League

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, May 24.—A number of notable changes are apparent in the playing form of the major league clubs at the close of the first month of the pennant season when the records are compared with those of a year ago. This is particularly true of the batting averages of the teams as well as the speed on the bases. Some allowance must be made for the fact that inclement weather of the present spring has been the cause of more postponed games than was the case in 1915. This feature, however, is not sufficient to account for the radical changes in the standing of a number

of clubs as are shown by the accompanying figures.

In the National league the Brooklyn club is leading the senior association with a batting average of .267 where as a year ago the superbas were seventh with .243. Chicago, which was first twelve months ago, is at present in fifth place with .249 which is about twenty points lower than in 1915. The Cubs also show a falling off in stolen bases for they pilfered less than a third of the number that they registered in the same period a year ago. If the figures for the present season can be relied upon there

## SILVER GOING INTO HIDING WITH GOLD

RAPIDLY BECOMING THE PRIME CIRCULATING MEDIUM OF THE WORLD

War has brought a change in the ratio between gold and silver used in the arts and industries, says the Telegraph of Colorado Springs. For many years, 37 per cent of the yellow metal and 70 per cent of the white were turned to these purposes, but the exigencies of strife have led to silver coming more into favor for money rather than for the things for which it was formerly employed. Its coinage has passed the \$3,000,000,000 mark as against \$9,000,000,000 for its sister metal, but the gain appears to have only begun. Silver is rapidly becoming the prime circulating medium, as so much gold has gone into hiding since the outbreak of hostilities abroad, and predictions are common that this condition will continue long after peace is declared. An added cause for the demand for the metal comes from a newly-developed tendency on the part of operators and the masses to hoard it, as was done formerly only with the yellow metal. It is said that large syndicates, like the

has been considerably less activity on the base lines to date than was the case last season for the league average in stolen bases in 1915 was 34 to 21 for the first month of this year's race play.

Among the American league clubs, Washington has shown the greatest improvement. The Nationals are holding second place in team batting with .244 while a year ago they were last with .211. The Philadelphia Athletics batting .249 in 1915 are last at present with .216. Cleveland, although leading the league, is nine points below the figures which gave here fourth place at this time last spring. There is not the marked difference in the league average for stolen bases that is apparent in the National league for the records of 1915 show that the eight clubs had averaged 29 stolen bases last season to 25 for the first month of the present race.

Guggenheim interests, have placed millions in values in storage awaiting a better price, while other millions are known to be finding their way into the capacious maw of the family stocking.

Charlie Chaplin is being sued for \$500,000 for breach of contract which is enough to make him feel like dropping comedy for tragedy.—New Orleans States.

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Speaking of millionaires' clubs, the directors of munitions factories could form an imposing organization.—Buffalo Courier.

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